

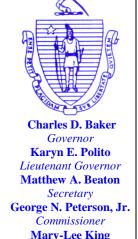
# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

#### **Division of Marine Fisheries**

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400 Boston, Massachusetts 02114 (617)626-1520 fax (617)626-1509

### **Notice to Fixed Gear Fishermen**

#### **Industry-Based Survey for Gulf of Maine Cod**



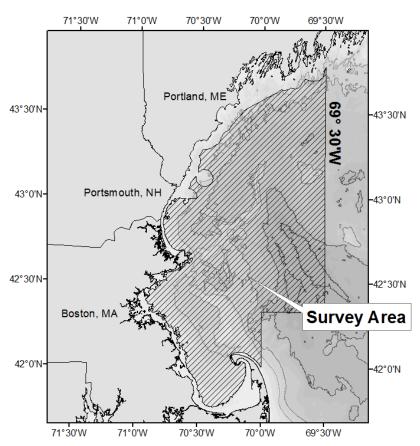
Deputy Commissioner

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF) is continuing the collaborative research effort with the commercial groundfish industry to establish an industry-based trawl survey (IBS) to study Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod.

The purpose of the study is to collect biological information, abundance estimates, and distribution information with the goal of providing additional information to help inform management and support stock assessments. Although the primary species of focus is GOM cod, additional data will be collected to enhance the management of other **groundfish** and **lobster** stocks within the GOM.

The survey will start again in October and end in January 2017. The survey is a stratified-random design and stations occur from 10 fathoms to 160 fathoms, including waters west of 69°30' within the GOM cod stock boundary.

The survey vessel will be completing tows that are 200 feet wide and 1.5 nautical miles long and as close as possible to the designated stations. Many of the tows are not straight line tows; rather they follow an edge or substrate type. Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries requests fishermen to voluntarily assist by temporarily clearing the stations of fixed gear during the designated time period. Attached are several tables and maps that



detail tow locations of upcoming survey cruises.

The vessel selected for the survey is the **F/V Miss Emily**, a western rigged stern trawler based out of Scituate, MA. The vessel details are below:

Vessel Name	Hull Number	Hull Color	Captain	Vessel Phone
Miss Emily	MS2892BE	Green	Kevin Norton	(781) 801-8888

During the survey the F/V Miss Emily can be reached on **VHF Channel 16** or on vessel cell phone number shown in the table above.

The IBS text message alert system is the most effective method of receiving real-time updates. Users of this system will receive messages detailing the progress and schedule of the survey by region. To sign up for this service visit the MA DMF website and visit the Industry-Based Survey of Gulf of Maine Cod project page, click the text message alerts link, and complete the Google signup form. If you would like assistance signing up, call Maren Olson at 978-282-0308 ext. 167.

Please note that the survey schedule may be affected by adverse weather conditions. Updates identifying when tows are planned and completed will be available from the following resources:

- Visit the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries website
   (<a href="http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries">http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries</a>) and proceed to the Industry-Based Survey for Gulf of Maine Cod project page.
- Real-time text alerts with planned and completed tows.
- Announcements made on VHF Channel 16 the morning of each day that the survey is being conducted.
- Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries social media accounts.
- Contact William Hoffman at Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries at (978) 282-0308 ext. 106.
- Contact the F/V Miss Emily directly via VHF radio or vessel cell phone.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries thanks all fishermen for past and future cooperation. Through these efforts we are very optimistic that a successful survey can be achieved, resulting in improved stock assessments and improved fisheries management.

Thank you,

William Hoffman
Co-Principle Investigator

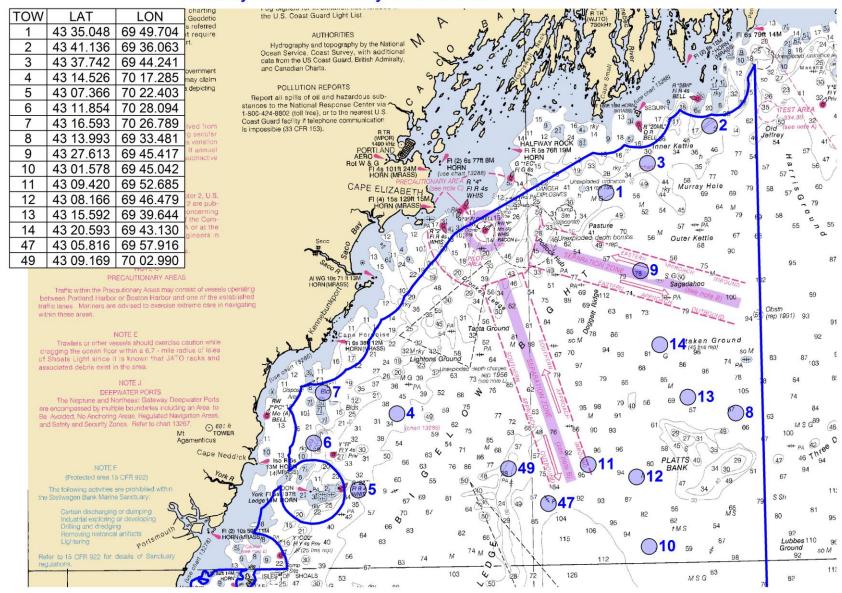
Senior Fisheries Biologist

Micah Dean

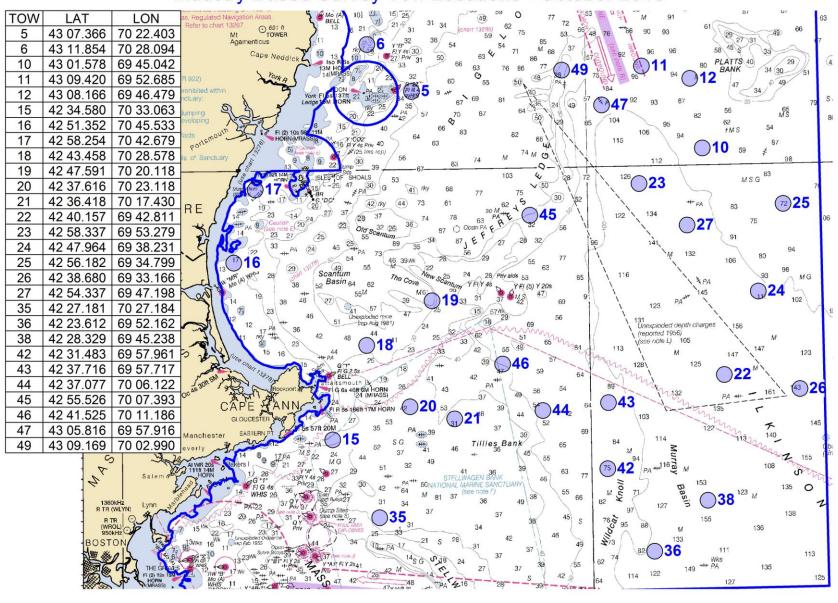
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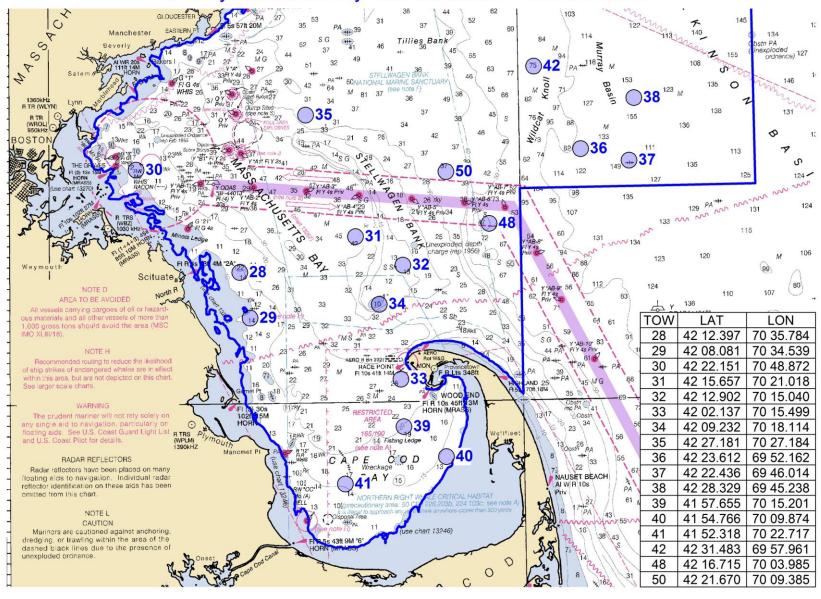
#### Industry Based Survey Tow Locations - October 2016



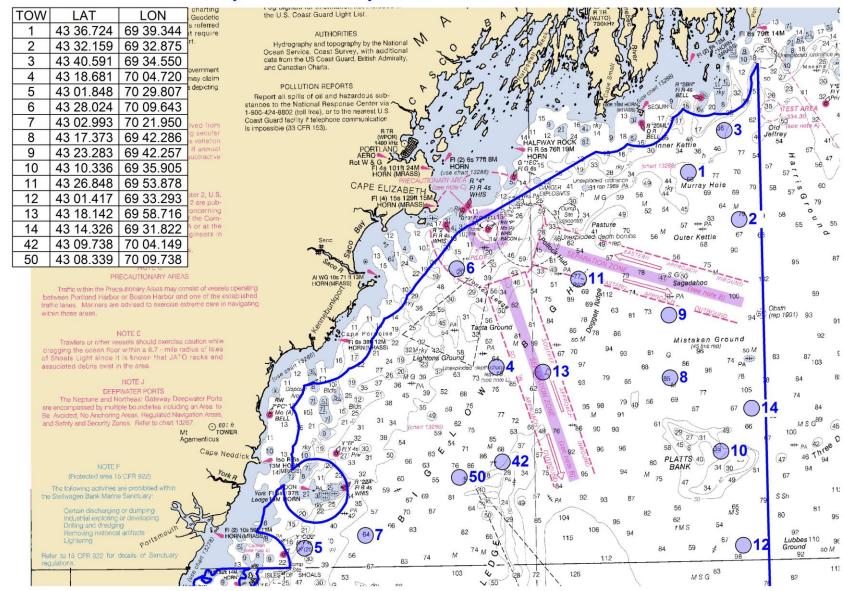
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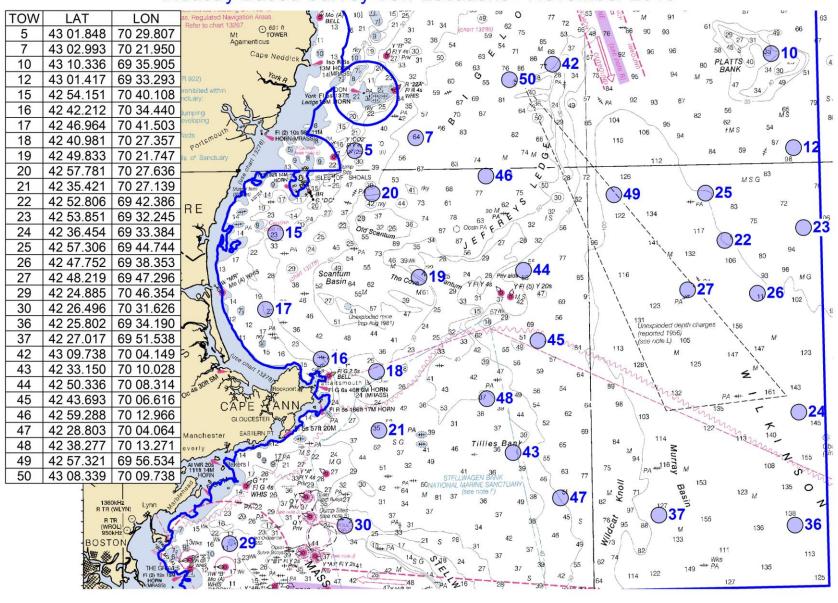
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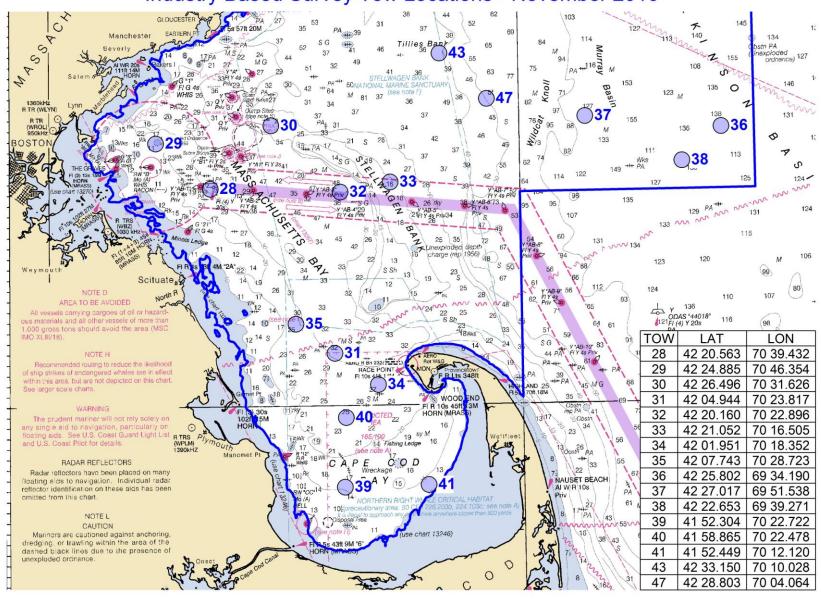
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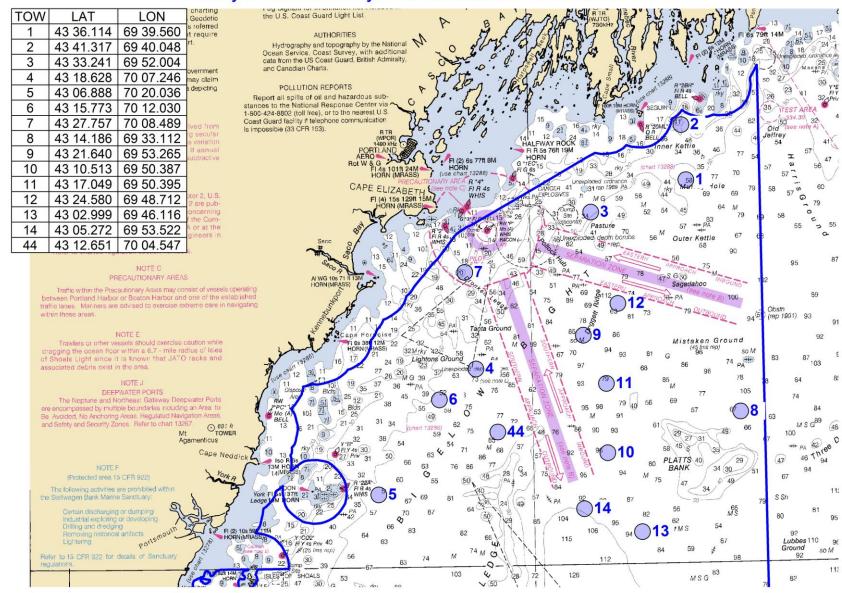
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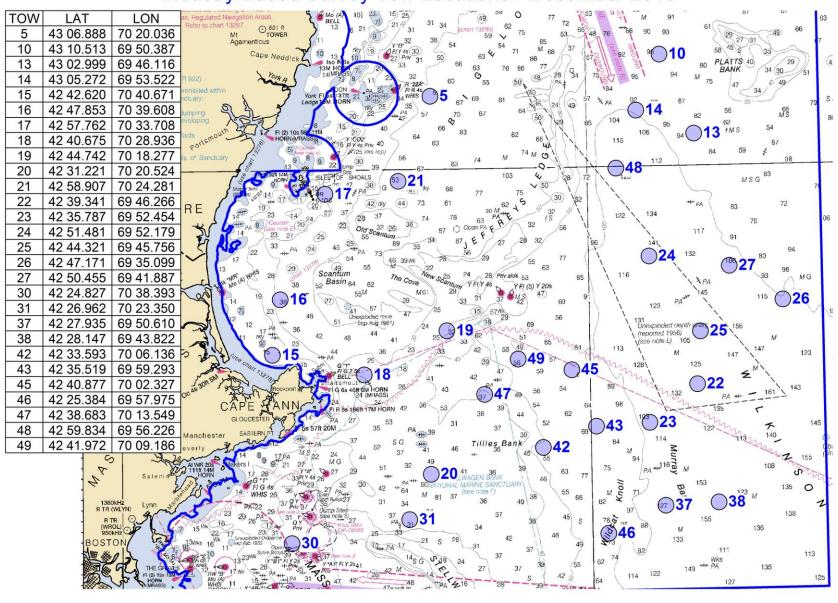
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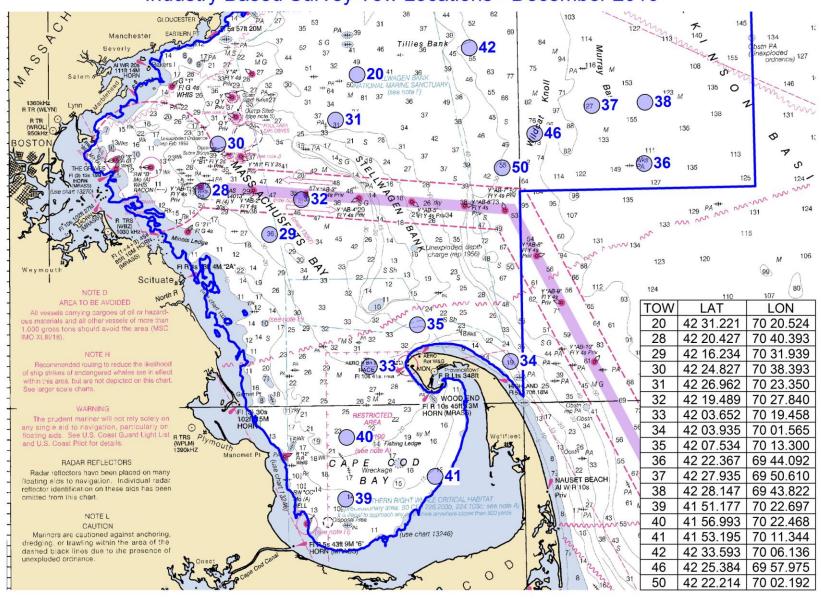
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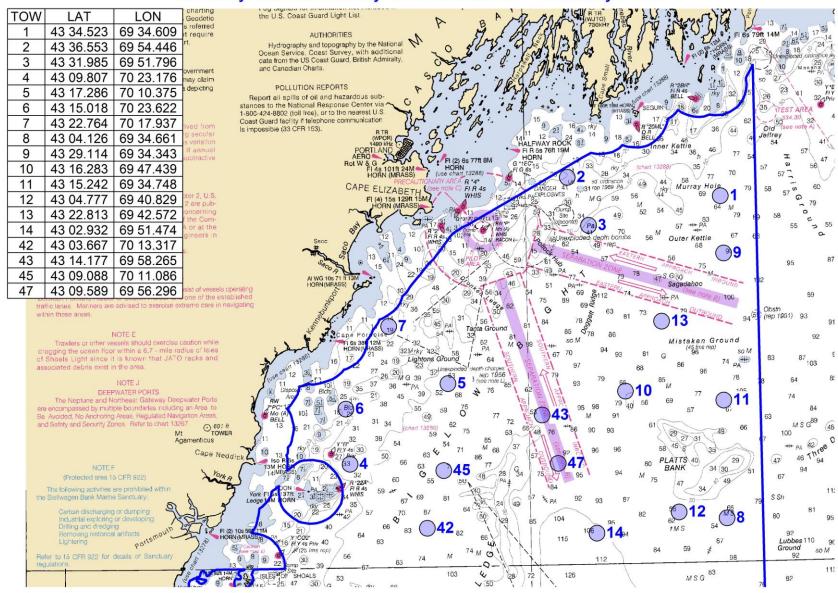
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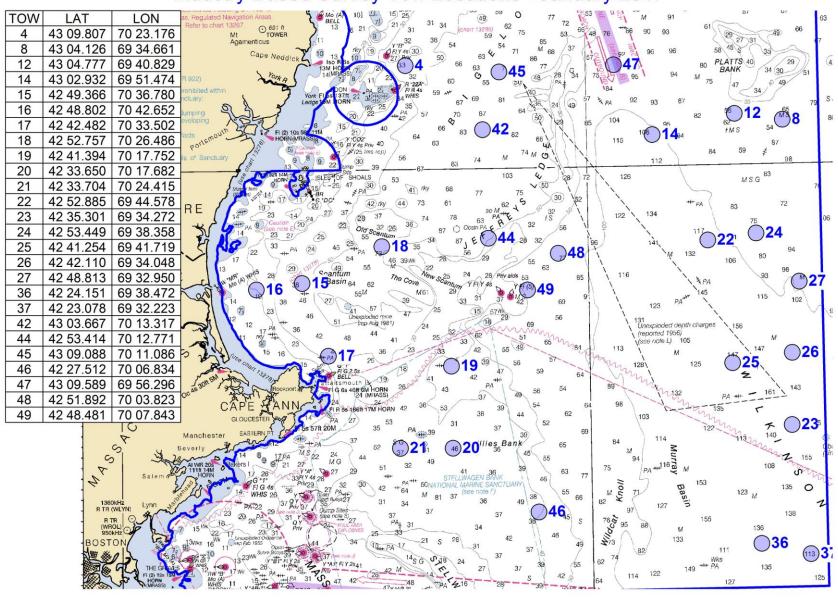
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